

Sea Turtle Volunteer Program

Share the Beach



Newsletter of the USFWS Daphne Field Office

<http://daphne.fws.gov>

October 21, 2002



Hatchling, USFWS photo

Just a Reminder

- Bring any remaining USFWS supplies to Bon Secour Refuge.
- If you are interested in a copy of the slide show call Kelly at the Nature Center.
- **Thanks for making this such a successful season!**

Contact Us:

1-866-SEA-TURTLE, x 32
or
251-441-5181, x 32

Share the Beach Newsletter

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The Share the Beach newsletter is published by the Daphne Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Drawer 1190, Daphne, AL 36526. Tel. 251-441-5181. Fax 251-441-6222. Web site: <http://daphne.fws.gov>.

Share the Beach Update

The 2002 Sea Turtle Season has officially come to a close! This will be the last newsletter until next spring. The last nest, H7, on Orange Beach finally hatched in the pouring rain on Monday the 14th. This nest hatched five months and three days after the first nest (A1) was laid way back in May! Despite all the moves that it has been through, the nest did very well and produced 82 hatchlings.

If we missed you at the last meeting, we would like to thank you so much for all your hard work and enthusiasm throughout the season. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and we will miss getting paid to play in the sand! As of October 25th, the turtle cell phone (709-4583) will no longer be in operation so if you need to contact someone regarding sea turtles, call the hotline number (1-866-SEA-TURTLE ext. 32).

Just because all of the turtles are gone doesn't mean that there is not more for you to do over the winter. The program has grown so much over the past year but we still do need more volunteers to walk the beach and nest sit. So brag to your neighbors and friends about what a great turtle season it has been and invite everyone you know to next spring's first sea turtle meeting.



Turtle Drama,, Photo: Turtle Trax web page

Nest Update

Numbers for 2002:

Nests: 63

False Crawls: 38

Unmarked Nests: 2

Emergence Success (overall): 63.19%

Bon Secour: 55.52%

Laguna Key: 53.3%

West Beach #2: 62.0%

West Beach #1: 85.4%

Gulf State Park: 49.9%

Orange Beach: 73.16%

AL Point: 90.2%

Last Season (overall): 34%

Emergence Success Without 11 failed nests

(<10% Emergence success): 77.38%

avg Incubation (overall): 63 Days

Bon Secour: 62 Days

Laguna Key: 59 Days

West Beach #2: 59 Days

West Beach #1: 61 Days

Gulf State Park: 70.5 Days

Orange Beach: 65 Days

AL Point: 64.5 Days

% Reaching the Water (overall):

Bon Secour: 99.56%

Laguna Key: 99.85%

West Beach #2: 14%

West Beach #1: 93.41%

Gulf State Park: 100%

Orange Beach: 82.03%

AL Point: 86.82%

Hatchling Total (overall): 4347

Bon Secour: 1971

Laguna Key: 561

West Beach #2: 63

West Beach #1: 335

Gulf State Park: 237

Orange Beach: 464

AL Point: 685

****The entire database for all sections of the beach is available on the Daphne Field Office website (<http://daphne.fws.gov>).**